

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1-30. (Canceled)

31. (Currently Amended) A method for stabilizing a tissue for implanting an occlusion device in a patient, comprising the steps of:

~~placing~~introducing into a heart of a patient a delivery member having at least a first flexible member, said first flexible member having a first end portion and a second free end portion;

introducing said second free end portion of said[[a]] first flexible member through a patent foramen ovale;

~~in~~contacting said second free end portion with a left atrial side of a septum primum~~with a first side of a tissue in a patient;~~

~~placing a second flexible member in contact with a second side of said tissue in the patient; and~~

~~applying pressure with at least one of said first and second flexible members to said tissue in the patient~~

puncturing a hole through said septum primum;

withdrawing said second free end portion of said flexible member from said left atrial side; and

introducing an occlusion device for occluding said patent foramen ovale through said hole in said septum primum.

32-33. (Canceled)

34. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~[[33]]~~31, wherein the occlusion device is selected from the group consisting of a septal occluder, suture, staple, and adhesive.

35. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~[[32]]~~31, further comprising the step of introducing an apparatus for joining tissue.

36. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 35, wherein the ~~tissue joining~~ apparatus for joining tissue is a tissue welding apparatus.

37. (Currently Amended) A method for stabilizing a tissue for implanting an occlusion device in a patient, comprising the steps of:

~~extending~~ introducing into the heart of a patient a delivery member for delivering a plurality of hexagonally shaped ~~[[a]]~~ flexible members;

introducing said hexagonally shaped flexible members through a patent foramen ovale;

placing at least one of said hexagonally shaped flexible members on a left atrial side of a septum primum; and

withdrawing the at least one hexagonally shaped flexible member from the left atrial side ~~from a first lumen of a first elongate member, said flexible member having a first portion and a second portion;~~

~~placing said first portion of said flexible member in contact with a first surface of a tissue in a patient;~~

~~placing said second portion of said flexible member in contact with a second surface of a tissue in the patient; and~~

~~applying pressure with said flexible member to said tissue in the patient.~~

38. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 37, further comprising the step of providing a cutting member for forming a hole in said ~~tissue~~ septum primum.

39. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 38, further comprising the step of providing an occlusion device for occluding said patent foramen ovale through said hole in said ~~tissue~~ septum primum.

40. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 39, wherein the occlusion device is selected from the group consisting of a septal occluder, suture, staple, and adhesive.

41. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 38, further comprising the step of introducing an apparatus for joining tissue.

42. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 41, wherein the ~~tissue joining~~ apparatus for joining tissue is a tissue welding apparatus.

43-59. (Canceled)

60. (New) The method of claim 31, further comprising the step of placing said first end portion of said first flexible member on a right atrial side of the septum primum.

61. (New) The method of claim 31, wherein said delivery member further comprises a second flexible member, said second flexible member having a first end portion and a second free end portion, and wherein said method further comprises the step of contacting said second free end portion of said second flexible member with the left atrial side of the septum primum.

62. (New) The method of claim 61, further comprising the step of placing said first end portion of said second flexible member on a right atrial side of the septum primum.

63. (New) The method of claim 31, wherein the flexible member is spiral shaped.